

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-34 (canceled)

35. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 33~~ A method for managing flash memory, the method comprising:

(a) receiving at least one request from a host system utilizing a processor within a memory controller;

(b) determining which sectors of the flash memory are available for programming, reprogramming, or reading utilizing the processor and an index within the memory controller, wherein the host system interacts with the flash memory controller without the host system having information regarding the configuration of the flash memory; and

(c) recycling obsolete sectors so that they are available for reprogramming,

wherein the recycling step (c) comprises:

(c1) block copying valid data from sectors of a first block to sectors of a second block, wherein the sectors of the first block become obsolete sectors; and

(c2) erasing the obsolete sectors of the first block so that they are available for reprogramming.

36-45 (canceled)

46. (currently amended) ~~The computer readable medium of claim 44~~ A computer readable medium containing program instructions for managing flash memory, the program instructions which when executed by a computer system cause the computer system to execute a method comprising:

(a) receiving at least one request from a host system utilizing a processor within a memory controller; and

(b) determining which sectors of the flash memory are available for programming, reprogramming, or reading utilizing the processor and an index within the memory controller, wherein the host system interacts with the flash memory controller without the host system having information regarding the configuration of the flash memory; and

(c) program instructions for recycling obsolete sectors so that they are available for reprogramming,

wherein the recycling step (c) comprises program instructions for:

(c1) block copying valid data from sectors of a first block to sectors of a second block, wherein the sectors of the first block become obsolete sectors; and

(c2) erasing the obsolete sectors of the first block so that they are available for reprogramming.

47-52 (canceled)